

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0480/001203	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below	
International application No. PCT/EP 99/09989	International filing date (day month year) 16/12/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day month year) 16/12/1998
Applicant KNOLL AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☒ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☒ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II)

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

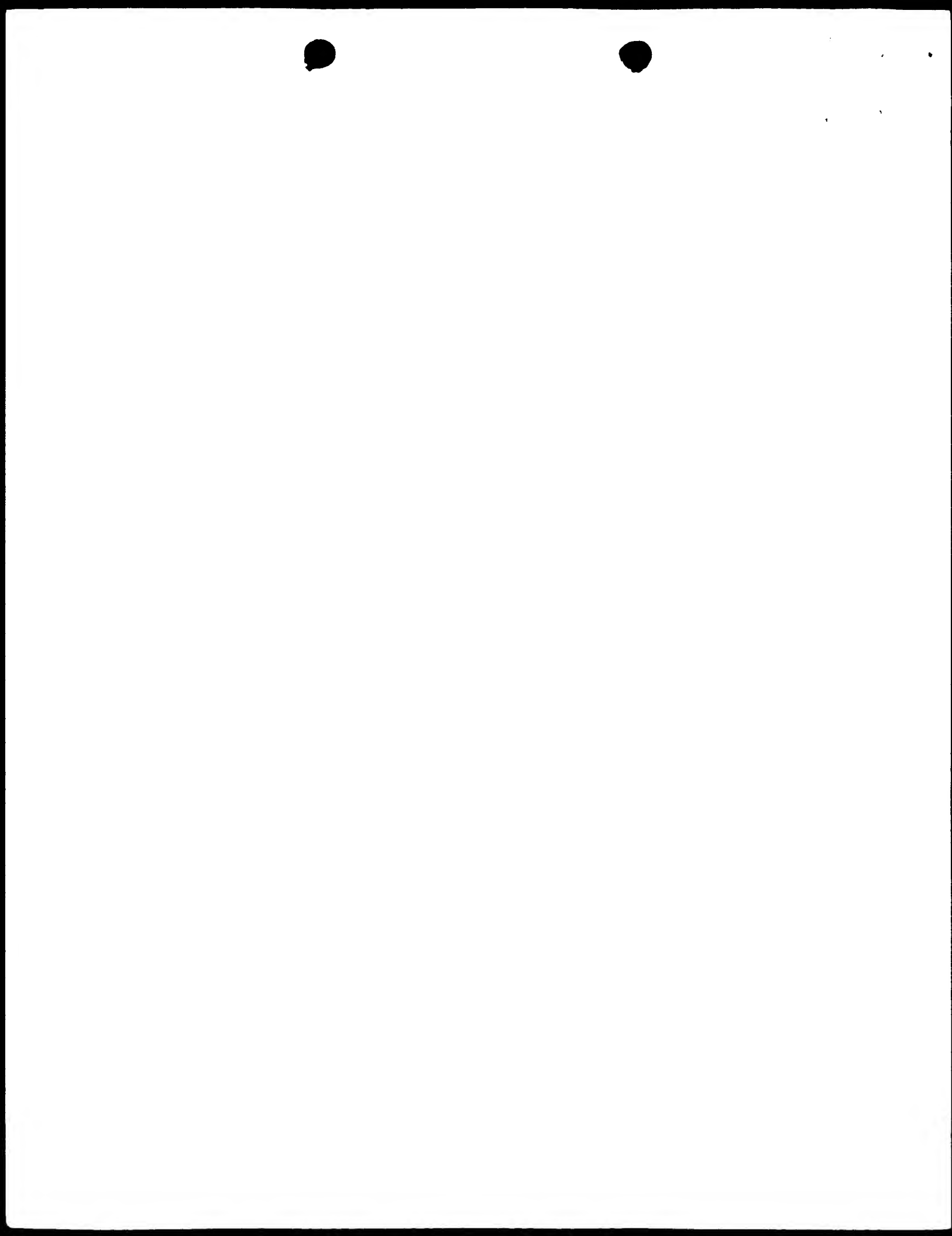
5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ drawings as suggested by the applicant

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

☐ because the figure is better characterized by the text

☒ none of the figures



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP 99/09989

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1 - 2

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were duly paid by the applicant and that
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.



FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-2 relate to an extremely large number of possible methods. In fact, the claims include so many possible compounds that a lack of clarity (and/or conciseness) within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and/or concise), namely the mechanism of action per se (modification of homer expression) and the use of the suggested compounds for treating the defined medical indications .

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.



FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1 -2

Use of a homer expression modifying compound for the treatment of a neuroleptic syndrome or psychosis, especially schizophrenia

2. Claim : 3

Use of a homer expression modifying compound for the treatment of an oncological disorder

3. Claims: 4-7

Use of a compound which interacts with the metabotropic receptors in the treatment of different disorders such as psychosis and neuroleptic induced disorders

4. Claim : 8

Certain nucleic acids

5. Claims: 9-10

Screening methods for finding compounds modifying homer expression using certain cells

6. Claim : 11

Use of a homer expression modifying compound for the treatment of CNS disorders

7. Claims: 12-29

Use of a homer expression inducing compound or a homer peptide interacting with the homer interaction motif located in the disease-associated-target for the treatment of different diseases



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 99/09989

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61K31/00 A61K31/4465 C12N15/63 C07K14/47 G01N33/53
A61P25/18 A61P35/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 40407 A (WORLEY PAUL F ;BRAKEMAN PAUL R (US); UNIV JOHNS HOPKINS (US)) 17 September 1998 (1998-09-17) page 18, line 17-19 page 2, line 34 page 3, line 2 -page 4, line 2 ---	1-3
X	JAMES E F REYNOLDS: "MARTINDALE THE EXTRA PHARMACOPOEIA" 1996 , ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY , LONDON, GB XP002135213 page 714-715: "Haloperidol" -----	1-3



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C



Patent family members are listed in annex

* Special categories of cited documents

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P. B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

4000-2280 HV Rijswijk

Authorized officer



Information on patent family members

PC1/EP 99/09989

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9840407 A	17-09-1998	AU 6702698 A EP 0970119 A	29-09-1998 12-01-2000



PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07K 14/47, C12N 15/63, G01N 33/53	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/40407 (43) International Publication Date: 17 September 1998 (17.09.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT US98 04983 (22) International Filing Date: 13 March 1998 (13.03.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/036,553 14 March 1997 (14.03.97) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY [US/US]; 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WORLEY, Paul, F. [US/US]; 17 Blythewood Road, Baltimore, MD 21210 (US). BRAKEMAN, Paul, R. [US/US]; Suite 2-100, 2024 E. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21205 (US). (74) Agents: STRATFORD, Carol, A. et al.; Dehlinger & Associates, LLP, P.O. Box 60850, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0850 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: SYNAPTIC ACTIVATION PROTEIN COMPOSITIONS AND METHOD**(57) Abstract**

Disclosed are nucleotide coding sequences and polypeptide sequences for synaptic activation binding proteins that are characterized by induction in the central nervous systems following neuronal activity in rat hippocampus. Such proteins are identified by (i) substantial homology at the nucleotide or protein sequence level to specifically defined rat, human or mouse coding sequences or proteins, (ii) ability to bind to and affect the activity of effector proteins in the CNS, such as metabotropic glutamate receptors, (iii) binding specificity of a particular binding sequence, and (iv) presence in the sequence of a PDZ-like domain. Nucleotides and polypeptides of the invention are useful in screening and diagnostic assays.

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SYNAPTIC ACTIVATION PROTEIN COMPOSITIONS AND METHOD

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This invention was made with United States Government support by Grant No. RO1A2 from the National Institutes of Mental Health and Grant No. RO1DA10309-01 from NIDA. The United States Government therefore has certain rights in this invention.

10

Field of the Invention

The present invention is concerned with a new family of synaptically activated proteins, and in particular, a protein that specifically binds to and alters the function of metabotropic glutamate receptors.

15 References

Ausubel, F.M., *et al.*, in CURRENT PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Media PA (1992).

Chevray, P.M., and Nathans, D., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:5789-5792 (1992).

Dayhoff, M.O., in ATLAS OF PROTEIN SEQUENCE AND STRUCTURE Vol. 5, National Biomedical
20 Research Foundation, pp. 101-110, and Supplement 2 to this volume, pp. 1-10 (1972).

Harlow, E., and Lane, D., Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor, NY: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1993).

25 Karsenti, H.G., *et al.*, *Science* 269:1737-1741 (1995).

Pin, J.P., and Duvoisin, R., *Neuropharmacology* 34:1-26 (1995).

Sambrook, *et al.*, MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL (Second Edition) Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989).

5 Background of the Invention

Spatial localization and clustering of membrane proteins is critical to neuronal development and synaptic plasticity. Proteins that interact with plasma membrane proteins are thought to affect the spatial distribution of such membrane proteins. These interactions are may be important in regulating the function(s) of membrane proteins, such as neurotransmitter receptors, which control synaptic activity
10 in the central nervous system.

The present invention concerns the discovery of a new family of proteins that are enriched in the mammalian central nervous system and that interact with proteins involved in synaptic function. These proteins are involved in synaptic function, as evidenced by their induction by neuronal activation, such as seizures, visual stimulation, acute cocaine, trauma, and the like. These proteins are collectively
15 termed "synaptic activation proteins."

A novel dendritic protein, termed "Homer", exemplifies the present invention. This protein contains a single, PDZ-like binding domain and binds specifically to the C-terminus of metabotropic glutamate receptors. Metabotropic glutamate receptors release intracellular calcium by activating phospholipase C, which catalyzes the hydrolysis of membrane phosphoinositides. However, other than
20 containing a PDZ-like domain, the Homer protein does not otherwise resemble known PDZ proteins and has less than 10% sequence identity with the closest PDZ protein. Additionally, the Homer protein is regulated as an immediate early gene. This dynamic transcriptional control suggests that Homer mediates a novel cellular mechanism to regulate metabotropic glutamate signaling.

The features outlined for the Homer protein characterize a novel family of proteins, synaptic
25 activation proteins, which form the basis for the present invention. Because these proteins are involved in synaptic function, they have particular utilities, for example, in screening assays for drugs that affect synaptic function and are therefore centrally active, as further described below.

Summary of the Invention

30 The present invention is concerned with a novel family of proteins that are present in the mammalian central nervous system. These proteins are particularly characterized by (i) their enhanced expression in mammalian central nervous tissue in response to synaptic activation, and (ii) a novel PDZ-like binding domain.

The new protein family is exemplified by a rat protein, termed "Homer" (SEQ ID NO: 2).
35 Other members of the family have a sequence that is substantially identical (*e.g.*, at least 70% or greater sequence identity, and preferably 80% or greater sequence identity) to that of the rat protein, or to the

human and mouse members of the family, segments of which are shown herein as SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4. The full length versions of these latter peptides, insofar as they are revealed by the discovery of the full-length sequences described herein, also form part of the present invention. The present invention also include species homologs and/or compositions based on internally consistent variations between SEQ ID NO: 2 and such full length species homologs, as described herein.

More specifically, proteins having sequences that comprise internally consistent variants among the disclosed sequences, including conservative amino acid substitutions thereof, also form a part of the invention. Family members may be identified by low stringency hybridization, degenerate PCR, or other methods that detect nucleotide or amino acid sequences that are at least about 70%, and in a preferred embodiment at least 80%, identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively.

Proteins of the invention are particularly useful for use in screening assays for centrally active drugs. The proteins are also useful components of diagnostic assays for measuring induction of synaptic activation, as may occur in response to multiple stimuli that result in synaptic activation. Similarly, peptide fragments from such proteins, particularly peptide fragments derived from the binding site between such proteins and their synaptic effector binding partners, have utility as inhibitors long term consequences of abnormal synaptic activation.

In a related embodiment, the invention includes polypeptides as described above, but which further exhibit an ability to selectively bind to a synaptic membrane protein having a C-terminal peptide region selected from the group consisting of SSSL and SSTL.

In a related aspect, the invention also includes nucleotide sequences that encode members of the novel protein family described herein. Accordingly, nucleotide sequences having substantial identity to the disclosed Homer protein coding sequences (such as SEQ ID NO: 1), as well as the disclosed sequences themselves, are also included within the invention.

Also forming a part of the invention are vectors containing the polynucleotide sequences described above. Such vectors are useful, for example, in the production of the claimed proteins by recombinant techniques.

In a related aspect, the invention also includes a method of selecting a compound that interferes with binding of a synaptic activation protein to a cellular binding protein in the mammalian central nervous system. The method includes adding a test compound to a reaction mixture containing (i) an isolated synaptic activation protein having substantial identity to one or more of the polypeptides having the substantial sequence identity to the polypeptide having a sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 2, (ii) an isolated binding protein to which the synaptic activation protein binds, and (iii) means for detecting

binding measured in the absence of the test compound. A test compound is selected for use as a

centrally active drug if such comparison reveals a substantial difference in binding under these conditions.

In a particular embodiment, the binding protein in the assay method is a metabotropic glutamate receptor polypeptide which includes a sequence selected from the group consisting of SSSL and SSTL.

- 5 In another particular embodiment, the binding protein is an mGluR linked to phosphoinositidase C. In yet another embodiment, mGluR is expressed in cells, and binding between the receptor and the binding protein is measured by measuring phosphoinositidase C activity in cells.

These and other objects and features of the invention will become more fully apparent when the following detailed description of the invention is read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

10

Brief Description of the Figures

FIG. 1 shows the open reading frame nucleotide coding sequence (ORF) of a synaptic activation protein derived from rat (SEQ ID NO: 1);

- 15 FIG. 2 shows the deduced amino sequence of rat ("Homer"; SEQ ID NO: 2), and compares amino acid sequences derived from EST's of human (SEQ ID NO: 3) and mouse (SEQ ID NO: 4) synaptic activation proteins;

FIG. 3 shows a computer-generated image of a Northern blot of total RNA (10 μ g) from rat brain (hippocampus, cortex) and other indicated organs, showing rapid and transient induction by seizures of the 6.5 kb (approx.) mGluR binding protein in the hippocampus and cortex;

- 20 FIG. 4 shows a computer-generated image of an immunoblot analysis of the full-length binding proteins expressed in HEK-293 cells as a 28 kDa protein (lane "Homer") and as a 28/29 kDa doublet in hippocampus from seizure-stimulated rats, as indicated by the arrow;

- FIG. 5 shows a computer-generated image of an immunoblot of mGluR5 (140 kDa band) expressed in HEK-293 cells (lane 2) compared to cells transfected with vector alone (lane 1), of elution fractions from a GST affinity column (lane 4), and elution fractions of a GST-Homer affinity column (lane 5), where both columns were loaded with hippocampal extracts (lane 3), illustrating that the eluted Homer protein binds mGluR5;
- 25

- FIG. 6 shows a computer-generated image of an immunoblot showing immunoprecipitation of mGluR5 from hippocampal lysate (lane 1) by pre-immune serum (lane 2) anti-Homer protein antiserum (lane 3), and preabsorbed anti-Homer serum (lane 4), illustrating that Homer protein and mGluR5 interact *in vivo*;
- 30

FIGS. 7A and 7B show computer-generated images of immunostaining of rat parietal cortex tissue using anti-Homer antiserum (7A) and anti-mGluR5 antiserum (7B) at a magnification of 100x;

- FIGS. 7C-7F show Homer protein immunoreactivity in the cortex of adult rats detected by peroxidase method control (C) and 4 hours after a seizure (D), where immunostaining is induced by seizure and is enriched in pyramidal neurons of layers II/III and V (mag. 100x); (E) illustrating that
- 35

immunoreactivity is present along dendritic shafts (arrows) and in cell bodies but not in the nucleus (arrowhead; mag 600x); distal dendrites possess spine-like profiles (F, mag 1000x);

FIGS 8A and 8B show double immunofluorescent localization of AMPA type glutamate receptor, GluR1 and Homer in neurons of primary hippocampal culture (mag 600x); where arrows indicate the punctate pattern of Homer staining that extensively colocalizes with GluR1, demonstrating that the Homer protein is targeted to excitatory synapses;

FIGS. 9 (A-E) shows the C-terminal ten amino acids of metabotropic glutamate receptors mGluR1 α (9A), mGluR2 (9B; SEQ ID NO: 6), mGluR3 (9C; SEQ ID NO: 7), mGluR4 (9D; SEQ ID NO: 8), and mGluR5 (9E; SEQ ID NO: 9);

FIGS. 10A-10D show computer-generated images of an immunoblot analysis of *in vitro* binding by the Homer protein of metabotropic glutamate receptors mGluR1 (10A), mGluR2 (10B), mGluR3 (10C), mGluR5 and truncated mGluR5 (10D) to Homer protein, demonstrating selective binding of Homer protein to mGluR1 α and mGluR5;

FIGS. 10E-10F show results of immunoblot analysis of *in vitro* binding assays used to examine deletion constructs of GST-Homer for binding to myc-tagged mGluR5 C-terminus (195 aa) expressed in HEK-293 cells, where lane markers indicate the portion of Homer expressed, where immunoblot shown in FIG. 10E was immunoblotted for myc and demonstrates mGluR5 binding to full length Homer (1-186) and fragment 1-131 but not to fragment 109-186, and where image shown in FIG. 10F is Comassie stain of Homer deletion constructs;

FIG. 11 shows a computer-generated image of a Northern blot (10 μ g total RNA) showing postnatal increase in Homer mRNA in rat forebrain;

FIGS. 12(A-F) show a computer-generated images of coronal sections taken from dark-reared rat pups sacrificed in the dark (12B, 12C) or exposed to ambient room light for 30 minutes prior to sacrifice (12A, 12F) compared to age matched control rats raised in normal diurnal conditions (12D, 12E) and subjected to *in situ* hybridization with a radiolabeled antisense RNA probe specific for the 3' nontranslated region of Homer;

FIG. 13 shows a computer-generated image of an *in situ* hybridization experiment demonstrating the effect of a unocular injection of tetrodotoxin (TTX) into the eye of rats prior to sacrifice;

FIG. 14 shows a computer-generated image showing an *in situ* hybridization experiment demonstrating induction of Homer mRNA in association with long term potentiation (LTP), where arrow indicates induced expression of Homer RNA in hippocampal granule cells following synaptic stimulus that produced LTP; and

intraperitoneally 2 hours prior to sacrifice

Detailed Description of the Invention

1. Definitions

The term "polynucleotide" as used herein refers to a polymeric molecule having a backbone that supports bases capable of hydrogen bonding to typical polynucleotides, where the polymer backbone presents the bases in a manner to permit such hydrogen bonding in a sequence specific fashion between the polymeric molecule and a typical polynucleotide (*e.g.*, single-stranded DNA). Such bases are typically inosine, adenosine, guanosine, cytosine, uracil and thymidine. Polymeric molecules include double and single stranded RNA and DNA, and backbone modifications thereof, for example, methylphosphonate linkages.

The term "vector" refers to a nucleotide sequence that can assimilate new nucleic acids, and propagate those new sequences in an appropriate host. Vectors include, but are not limited to recombinant plasmids and viruses. The vector (*e.g.*, plasmid or recombinant virus) comprising the nucleic acid of the invention can be in a carrier, for example, a plasmid complexed to protein, a plasmid complexed with lipid-based nucleic acid transduction systems, or other non-viral carrier systems.

The term "polypeptide" as used herein refers to a compound made up of a single chain of amino acid residues linked by peptide bonds. The term "protein" may be synonymous with the term "polypeptide" or may refer, in addition, to a complex of two or more polypeptides.

As used herein, the terms "substantial homology" or "substantial identity", and declinations thereof, refer to concordance of an amino acid sequence with another amino acid sequence or of a polynucleotide sequence with another polynucleotide sequence of at least 70% or preferably, at least 80%, when such sequences are arranged in a best fit alignment. In the case of nucleotide sequences, the terms also imply that the nucleotide sequence in question is capable of being detected in a screening assay by a hybridization probe derived from the nucleotide sequence defined as SEQ ID NO: 1 (Homer coding sequence) under moderate stringency conditions. (Ausubel)

An "alignment" refers to the arrangement of two or more amino acid or nucleic acid sequences in such a way as to align areas of the sequences sharing common properties. The degree of relatedness or homology between the sequences is predicted computationally or statistically based on weights assigned to the elements aligned between the sequences.

Percent (%) identity, with respect to two amino acid sequences, refers to the percent of residues that are identical in the two sequences when the sequences are optimally aligned. Optimal alignment is defined as the alignment giving the highest percent identity score. Such alignments can be performed using the "GENEWORKS" program. Alternatively, alignments may be performed using the local alignment program LALIGN with a ktup of 1, default parameters and the default PAM. In the context of the present invention, when it is stated that a protein or nucleic acid has 80% identity to a given sequence, it is implicit that this refers to the entire sequence of the longer of the two proteins. Thus, for example the deduced translation product of an EST that is identical to the full length sequence SEQ

ID NO: 2 for the length of the EST product, but where the EST product is only 25% of the length of the full length sequence, is not considered to fall within a claimed sequence defined as having 80% or more sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.

The term "PDZ-like" binding domain refers to a portion of a polypeptide that contains one or more repeats of the amino acid GLGF and, preferably, a preceding basic amino acid, such as an arginine, preferably, separated from GLGF by 1-10 residues.

As used herein, the term "metabotropic glutamate receptor" or "mGluR" refers to a glutamate binding site which is functionally linked to either adenylate cyclase (AC) or phosphoinositidase c (PI-PLC). At least five neuronal metabotropic glutamate receptors have been identified: mGluR1 and mGluR5 are linked to PLC; mGluR2 and mGluR4 regulate AC activity.

As used herein, the term "metabotropic glutamate receptor binding protein" refers to a polypeptide that binds to one or more metabotropic glutamate receptors, as evidenced by co-immunoprecipitation of the binding protein and mGluR by an anti-mGluR antibody, or by *in vitro* binding as compared to a non-relevant control protein. A typical binding affinity for this interaction is at least about 10^{-6} M.

The term "central nervous system" (CNS) refers to the brain and spinal cord, including the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

The term "splice variant" refers to a protein that is coded by a common gene but which has a sequence that is altered due to alternative splicing of the mRNA prior to translation.

An "expressed sequence tag" or EST is a short (typically 200-300) bp segment derived from a cDNA sequence, whose sequence is unique, as evidenced by ability to be selectively amplified using specific primers in a polymerase chain reaction. ESTs generally do not represent full length sequences.

Amino acid residues are referred to herein by their standard single letter notations: A, alanine; C, cysteine; D, aspartic acid; E, glutamic acid; F, phenylalanine; G, glycine; H, histidine; I, isoleucine; K, lysine; L, leucine; M, methionine; N, asparagine; P, proline; Q, glutamine; R, arginine; S, serine; T, threonine; V, valine; W, tryptophan; X, hydroxyproline; Y, tyrosine.

II. Isolation of Binding Proteins

It is the discovery of the present invention that activation of excitatory synaptic activity in brain results in enhanced expression of a novel family of proteins, referred to herein as "synaptic activation proteins", and exemplified by a rat protein referred to herein as "Homer". Together with its splice variants and its homologues from other species, this protein defines the new family of synaptic activation

1. Isolation of Nucleotide Coding Sequences for Synaptic Activation Proteins

a. Identification of Coding Sequence. By way of example, the rat protein referred to herein as the rat Homer protein was initially identified by differential screening on the basis of its rapid induction of expression during excitatory synaptic activity in the hippocampus and cortex. Additional synaptic activation proteins can be identified by this method or by the homology screening methods described in Section 2, below.

Example 1 provides details of the differential screening method used to identify the rat Homer protein. Briefly, Poly(A)⁺ RNA was extracted from brains of animals having active seizures and was used to make cDNA. This stimulated cDNA was hybridized to excess RNA from the brains of non-stimulated control animals. cDNA made from the subtracted mRNA was then used to construct a library, from which the rat Homer protein was identified. As discussed herein, this protein has particular sequence characteristics and binding properties that define a family of synaptic binding or activation proteins.

In a differential screening procedure, a total of 16 novel, independent clones were identified that appeared to have higher levels in the stimulated than control rat hippocampus. Differential mRNA expression was confirmed by standard Northern analysis. The rat Homer protein was produced as a translation product of one of these differentially expressed clones. Northern analysis demonstrated that Homer mRNA is ~6.5 kB in length. Several full length cDNAs of the rat Homer protein were identified by screening a phage library (λ Zap II) that was specially prepared to contain large cDNAs. Both strands of two independent clones were sequenced and a 558 nucleotide open reading frame (ORF) was identified. The ORF was confirmed by analysis of the size of the protein product generated by *in vitro* transcription and translation of *in vitro* mRNA prepared from the putative full length clones and comparing this with protein prepared with mRNA from clones that lacked the start methionine. The ORF was additionally confirmed by preparing rabbit polyclonal antisera against either a bacterial fusion protein of full length Homer or against a synthetic peptide representing the C-terminus of the Homer protein. These antisera were used to confirm the presence of an appropriately sized protein in brain that is rapidly induced following maximal electroconvulsive seizures (MECS).

The nucleotide coding sequence of the Homer protein isolated from rat brain is shown in FIG. 1 as SEQ ID NO: 1. The coding sequence has an open reading frame (ORF) of 558 nucleotides (FIG. 1A; SEQ ID NO: 1). As mentioned above, a 6.5 kb mRNA derived from this DNA encodes a 186 amino acid protein (FIG. 2A; SEQ ID NO: 2). A long 3' UTR (GENBANK accession #: U92079) encodes multiple AUUUA repeats, such as have been implicated in mRNA destabilization of immediate early genes (IEG). The amino acid sequence predicts a soluble protein that contains a single GLGF sequence and a preceding arginine (FIG. 2), a so-called "PDZ-like domain" which is predicted to have certain binding properties, based on its characterization in different, unrelated proteins, such as PSD-95. The Homer protein sequence is otherwise novel and unpredictable from shorter sequences such as ESTs.

There is less than 10% amino acid sequence identity between rat Homer and reported members of the PDZ family (Doyle, *et al.*, 1996).

Expressed sequence tags (ESTs) from human (Z17805) and mouse (AA166092 and AA013888) were identified that are 84% and 72% identical to regions of the ORF coding sequences for Homer protein (FIG. 2; human, SEQ ID NO: 3 and mouse, SEQ ID NO: 4). Translation of the ESTs indicates that the amino acid sequences of the mouse and human ESTs are identical to each other in their limited region of overlap but the mouse ESTs are divergent from the rat Homer protein in this region, suggesting that the ESTs are homologues of additional family members. On the basis of the present discovery of rat Homer, the human and mouse protein sequences can be extended to include the rat sequence and/or conservative substitutions thereof, as described herein. Such extended sequences will fall within the definition of a synaptic activation protein family member, as defined herein.

Additional synaptic activation protein family members can be identified using a differential screening protocol similar to that described in Example 1, in conjunction with probes based on the sequences described herein, according to methods known in the art. Alternatively or in addition, such proteins are identified by (i) substantial homology at the nucleotide or protein sequence level to the rat Homer coding sequence or protein, (ii) ability to bind to and affect the activity of effector proteins in the CNS, such as metabotropic glutamate receptors, (iii) binding specificity for a particular binding sequence, and (iv) presence in the sequence of a Homer PDZ-like domain. As implied by its differential expression in stimulated rat brain, as discussed above, and as described further below, expression of the gene is stimulated by excitatory synaptic activity. These attributes of synaptic activation proteins are described in the sections that follow.

b. Identification of Synaptic Activation Protein Homologs. From the present disclosure of the rat Homer coding and polypeptide sequences, identification of additional members of the Homer polypeptide family having substantial homology to Homer can be accomplished by one or more methods known to persons skilled in the art, and discussed below.

For example, using nucleotide probes derived from SEQ ID NO: 1, the family members are identified by screening appropriate libraries. In particular, hybridization probes derived from nt 558-nt 1127 of the nearly full length cDNA reported to Genbank (Accession #: U92079) can be synthesized on commercially available DNA synthesizers (*e.g.*, Applied Biosystems Model 381A) using standard techniques well known in the art (Ausubel, *et al.*, 1992). A particularly appropriate library is a CNS or brain library, such as the human brain libraries which are commercially available from Stratagene

sequences determined, according to methods known in the art. Clones are further selected if their deduced amino acid sequences minimally include a Homer PDZ-like domain region, as discussed above.

Further characterization of selected clones is carried out by insertion of the isolated coding regions into vectors for expression in an appropriate expression system, such as any one or more of the systems described in Example 3, or in other appropriate systems known in the art. Translated products are then isolated, such as by the methods described in Example 4, and are tested for ability to bind to specific target proteins in the CNS and binding specificity for a particular peptide binding sequence, such as the sequence SSTL or SSSL, as discussed in Section III.C., below.

Further, using the protein sequences presented as SEQ ID NO: 2 (rat Homer), SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4, shown in FIGS. 2(A-C), as templates, it is appreciated that additional family members can be identified based on (i) sequence variation between and among the polypeptides and (ii) conservative substitution of amino acids within the sequences.

Thus, looking at the N-terminal region of the polypeptides shown in FIG. 2, it is apparent that the first 30 amino acids are invariant among the three sequences. However, positions 31-34 differ. The rat sequence is AVTV, while the human and mouse proteins share the sequence GHRF. From this variation, it is possible to construct polypeptides in which positions 31-34 have the variable sequences: A/G V/H T/R V/F. Further regions of variability are apparent from inspection of the aligned sequences. Certain regions of the rat Homer protein have been identified as significant in the context of its function. For example, the PDZ-like domain GLGF sequence and preceding arginine at positions 87-90 and 81, respectively, may form a "binding pocket", based on the known binding pocket of the synaptic binding protein PSD95 (Kornau, *et al.*, 1995). In accordance with the foregoing guidelines concerning substitution, this region is invariant among the three exemplified synaptic activation proteins and should therefore be conserved in any sequences deduced from these proteins.

Further substitution at the identified variable positions may be made by making conservative amino acid substitutions. That is, if the two or more of the possible amino acids at a variant position are in a common substitution class, substitution at that position by an amino acid within that class may preserve the conformation and function of the polypeptide. Standard substitution classes that can be used in this analysis are the six classes based on common side chain properties and highest frequency of substitution in homologous proteins in nature, as determined, for example, by a standard Dayhoff frequency exchange matrix (Dayhoff, 1972). These classes are Class I: C; Class II: S, T, P, X A, and G representing small aliphatic side chains and OH-group side chains; Class III: N, Q, D, and C, representing neutral and negatively charged side chains capable of forming hydrogen bonds; Class IV: H, R, and K, representing basic polar side chains; Class V: I, V, and L, representing branched aliphatic side chains, and Met; and Class VI: F, Y, and W, representing aromatic side chains. In addition, each group may include related amino acid analogs, such as ornithine, homoarginine, N-methyl lysine, dimethyl lysine, or trimethyl lysine in class IV, and cyclohexylalanine or a halogenated tyrosine in Group VI. Further, the classes may include both L and D stereoisomers, although L-amino acids are preferred for substitutions.

Polypeptide sequences designed according to the foregoing guidelines can be produced, for example by recombinant expression. The selected ORF is cloned as a fusion with glutathione-S-transferase (GST) and is expressed in bacteria. Alternatively, the ORF may be cloned into a mammalian expression vector and expressed in mammalian cells, according to methods known in the art.

5

c. Preparation of Synaptic Activation Protein Oligonucleotides/Vectors. Based on the protein sequences revealed through the foregoing analysis, nucleotides encoding synaptic activation proteins can be designed, according to methods known in the art. As discussed below, such design may include considerations of the type of cells used for expression of the protein.

10 The nucleotide sequences of the present invention can be engineered in order to alter the protein coding sequence for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, alterations which modify the cloning, processing and/or expression of the gene product. For example, alterations may be introduced using techniques which are well known in the art, e.g., site-directed mutagenesis, to insert new restriction sites, to alter glycosylation patterns, to change codon preference, to produce splice variants,
15 etc.

The present invention also includes recombinant constructs comprising one or more of the sequences as broadly described above. The constructs comprise a vector, such as a plasmid or viral vector, into which a sequence of the invention has been inserted, in a forward or reverse orientation. In a preferred aspect of this embodiment, the construct further comprises regulatory sequences,
20 including, for example, a promoter, operably linked to the sequence. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and are commercially available. Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts are also described in Sambrook, *et al.*, 1989.

As detailed in Example 2, a mammalian expression construct of the full length rat Homer
25 protein was prepared by cloning the 5' *EcoRI* fragment (1.6 kb) into the mammalian expression vector pRK5. The vector was used to transfect mammalian eukaryotic cells (human embryonic kidney; HEV-293 cells).

Alternate vectors may be used for transfection of different cell types. For example, for expression of a fusion protein containing the rat Homer polypeptide fused to GST, the Homer ORF was
30 cloned into the bacterial vectors pGEX. For expression in a yeast system, the Homer ORF was cloned into pPC86.

35 be produced recombinantly by any of a number of methods available for expression of proteins. By way

of example, Example 3 provides methods that have been used to express the rat Homer protein in a cell-free transcription/ translation system.

For larger scale production, expression of the Homer protein and synaptic activation protein family member homologues can be carried out in any of a number of cellular expression systems. Possible host cells include but are not restricted to bacterial, yeast, insect, and mammalian cells. It is appreciated that expression in a particular system may be optimized by tailoring codons to the particular cell type in which expression is to occur. Hence polynucleotides encompassed by the present invention shall include polynucleotides encoding for the protein of interest, as modified for optimal expression in any given expression system, without regard to the overall sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1. Such designing can be effected with the aid of codon usage or preference tables such as are known in the art.

As shown in FIG. 5, mGluR5 was expressed in HEK-293 cells (lane 2) and was compared to cells transfected with vector alone (lane 1). Here, mGluR5 migrates as a ~ 140 kDa major band with a secondary 50 kDa presumptive cleavage fragment. In extracts of hippocampus (lane 3), the upper (higher molecular weight) band appears as a doublet. In these experiments, hippocampal extracts were also passed over Affigel gel columns containing either GST or GST-Homer fusion protein and eluted with SDS loading buffer (lanes 4 and 5). Positive immunoblotting with anti-GluR5 antibody demonstrates the association of the rat Homer protein with the mGluR5 receptor in the extract.

b. Purification of Rat Homer Protein from Cell Extracts. The Homer protein and its analogs can be purified from a cell extracts using standard preparative procedures. Final stage purification may be carried out by any of a number of standard methods, including immunoaffinity column purification using antibodies raised against the Homer protein or fragments thereof, as described in Example 4.

3. Tissue Localization of Synaptic Activation Proteins

In experiments carried out in support of the present invention, it has been determined that expression of synaptic activation proteins is highly enriched in the central nervous system. For example, as demonstrated in the data shown in FIG. 3, rat Homer mRNA was found almost exclusively in the central nervous tissue.

Further, expression of Homer mRNA is strongly up-regulated in the hippocampus by seizure-induced neuronal activation. Peak mRNA expression occurs within 1 hour after seizure in the hippocampus (FIG. 3). The Homer protein is enriched in extracts of hippocampus and migrates as a doublet with an apparent molecular weight of 28/29kDa (FIG. 3) that is rapidly induced by seizure.

Example 6 provides exemplary methods that can be used to measure expression levels of Homer protein. Anatomic and cellular patterns of rat Homer protein expression were examined by

immunohistochemical analyses performed in adult rat brain. Consistent with its regulation as an IEG, Homer immunostaining in cortex markedly increased 4 hrs following a seizure (FIG. 4).

III. Cellular Binding Characteristics of Synaptic Activation Proteins

According to an important feature of the present invention, members of the synaptic activation protein family bind to specific central nervous system receptors or binding partners and modify the function of such proteins. As an example, and as discussed below, the rat Homer protein binds to two sub-types of metabotropic glutamate receptor (mGluR) found in the central nervous system -- mGluR1 α and mGluR5.

Additional central nervous system binding partners for specific synaptic activation binding proteins identified as discussed in Section II, above, can be identified using the methodologies described in Section A, below. Sections B and C describe methods used to characterize the interaction of a specific synaptic activation binding protein with its cellular binding partner(s).

1. Identification of Cellular Binding Sites for Synaptic Activation Proteins in the Central Nervous System

Synaptic activation protein binding sites in central nervous tissue can be identified using a two-hybrid protein interaction assay (Ausubel, *et al.*, 1992). This assay method provides a simple and sensitive means to detect the interaction between two proteins in living cells. Such an assay is described in Example 5, as it was used to identify certain of the functional binding partners for the rat Homer protein. Analogous assays are used to determine the cellular binding sites of the mouse and human proteins, and other homologous proteins according to the present invention.

The two-hybrid screening system is based on the observation that a protein-protein interaction can be detected if two potentially-interacting proteins are expressed as fusions, or chimeras. A first fusion protein contains one of a pair of interacting proteins fused to a DNA binding domain, and a second fusion protein contains the other of a pair of interacting proteins fused to a transcription activation domain. The two fusion proteins are independently expressed in the same cell, and interaction between the "interacting protein" portions of the fusions reconstitute the function of the transcription activation factor, which is detected by activation of transcription of a reporter gene. For use in the present invention, the first fusion protein contains the synaptic activation binding protein. The second fusion protein contains one of an expressed library of central nervous system specific proteins, as described below.

system, protein-protein interactions are detected, based on reconstitution of function of GAL4, a transcriptional activator from yeast, by activation of a *GAL1-lacZ* reporter gene. Like several other

transcription activating factors, GAL4 contains two distinct domains, a DNA binding domain and a transcription activation domain. Each domain can be independently expressed as a portion of a fusion protein composed of the domain, and a second, "bait" interacting protein. The two fusion proteins are then independently expressed together in a cell. When the two GAL4 domains are brought together by a binding interaction between the "bait" and the "binding" proteins, transcription of a reporter gene under the transcriptional control of GAL4 is initiated. The reporter gene typically has a promoter containing GAL4 protein binding sites (GAL upstream activating sequences, UAS_G). Exemplary reporter genes are the *GAL1-lacZ*, and *GAL1-HIS3* reporter genes.

A second two hybrid system, described in detail by Ausubel, *et al.*, (1992) utilizes a native *E. coli* LexA repressor protein, which binds tightly to appropriate operators. A plasmid is used to express one of a pair of interacting proteins (the "bait" protein, *e.g.*, Homer protein) as a fusion to LexA. The plasmid expressing the LexA-fused bait protein is used to transform a reporter strain of yeast, such as EGY48, that contains pSH18-34.

In this strain, binding sites for LexA are located upstream of two reporter genes. In the first reporter system, the upstream activation sequences of the chromosomal LEU2 gene--required in the biosynthetic pathway for leucine (Leu)--are replaced in EGY48 with *lexA* operators, permitting selection for viability when cells are plated on medium lacking Leu. In the second reporter system, EGY48 harbors a plasmid, pSH18-34, that contains a *lexA* operator-*lacZ* fusion gene, permitting discrimination based on color when the yeast is grown on medium containing *Xgal* (Ausubel, *et al.*, 1992).

The LexA library uses the inducible yeast GAL1 promoter to express proteins as fusions to an acidic domain ("acid blob") that functions as a portable transcriptional activation motif ("act"), and to other useful moieties. Expression of library-encoded proteins is induced by plating transformants on medium containing galactose (Gal), so yeast cells containing library proteins that do not interact specifically with the bait protein fail to grow in the absence of Leu. Yeast cells containing library proteins that interact with the bait protein form colonies within 2 to 5 days, and the colonies turn blue when the cells are streaked on medium containing *Xgal*. The plasmids are isolated and characterized by a series of tests to confirm specificity of the interaction with the initial bait protein. Those found to be specific are ready for further analysis (*e.g.*, sequencing).

In experiments carried out in support of the present invention and described in Example 5 herein, the yeast GAL4 two-hybrid system was used to identify binding partners of the rat Homer protein in a rat brain cDNA library (Chevray and Nathans, 1992). A PCR product of the full-length Homer ORF with flanking *SmaI* sites was subcloned into the yeast expression vector pPC97. A random primed cDNA library was prepared from seizure stimulated adult rat hippocampus and cloned into the yeast expression vector pPC86. The library contains 2×10^6 independent cDNAs. A total of 1.5×10^6 clones were screened. Interacting proteins were identified by selection on plates lacking leucine, tryptophan, and histidine, restreaked and confirmed using a β -galactosidase assay.

One of the interacting cDNAs identified in this assay encodes the C-terminal 195 amino acids of mGluR5. This region of mGluR5 is cytosolic and has been implicated in phospholipase C (PLC)-mediated signaling in neurons. Confirmation and further characterization of binding was carried out as described in Section B, below.

2. Binding of Synaptic Activation Proteins to Cellular Components

In accordance with the discovery of the present invention, synaptic activation proteins bind cellular components, such as those identified according to the methods described in Section A, above. After determining the cellular binding partner candidate, the synaptic activation protein can be further tested for binding to the candidate in one or more of the *in vitro* binding assays such as those described below.

For example, the bacterially expressed GST-Homer fusion protein was tested for binding to native mGluR5 in detergent extracts of hippocampus in an *in vitro* binding assay as detailed in Example 7A. As shown in FIG. 5, mGluR5 binds to GST-Homer fusion protein, but not to GST alone.

Another method of assessing binding *in vitro* is provided by a co-immunoprecipitation assay, in which an antibody directed to one of the proteins is used to assess whether the two proteins form a binding complex in solution. FIG. 6 shows the results of assays testing co-immunoprecipitation of mGluR5 with Homer from hippocampus according to methods detailed in Example 7B. Here, extracts of hippocampus were immunoprecipitated with either pre-immune serum, anti-Homer serum or anti-Homer serum pretreated with GST-Homer. As shown, mGluR5 co-immunoprecipitates with Homer antiserum but not pre-immune serum. Additionally, co-immunoprecipitation was blocked by preadsorption of antisera with Homer antigen (lane 4), indicating the specificity of the antisera for the rat Homer protein.

The potential for natural interaction between the synaptic activation protein and the candidate binding partner can be further assessed *in situ* and by immunostaining sections of brain tissue with antibodies directed to each of the proteins. The goal of this analysis is to establish that both proteins are expressed in the same regions of the cell. For example, FIGS. 7A and 7B show immunostaining of the rat Homer protein with anti-Homer antiserum (7A) and immunostaining of mGluR5 with anti-mGluR5 antibodies (7B) in adult rat parietal cortex. From these experiments, it is observed that mGluR5 and Homer immunostaining are both enriched in apical dendrites of Layer V pyramidal neurons. These data provide anatomic support for the interaction *in vivo* between the Homer protein and mGluR5.

the most intense immunostaining which typically filled the soma and extended into apical dendrites in a punctate pattern along the perimeter of the dendrite (FIG. 7C). Spine-like profiles were frequently

seen in distal dendrites (FIG. 7D). Homer immunoreactivity was not present in the nucleus. The punctate pattern of Homer immunostaining was confirmed in primary cultures of hippocampal neurons (FIGS. 8A, 8B). Moreover, Homer extensively co-localized with immunostaining for the glutamate receptor GluR1 indicating that Homer is enriched at excitatory synapses. The anatomic pattern of Homer expression matches closely reports of mGluR5 immunoreactivity. mGluR5 immunoreactivity is enriched in dendrites of cortical pyramidal neurons, as well as many other neuronal populations that express Homer, and is present at excitatory synapses. The extensive co-distribution of Homer protein and mGluR5 in pyramidal neuron dendrites and excitatory synapses, together with the striking specificity of their physical interaction, support the notion that these proteins are physiological partners. The rat Homer protein is also highly expressed in Purkinje cells of the cerebellum. These cells strongly express mGluR1 α , suggesting a physiological partnership between the two protein types in these neurons.

The studies described above with respect to the rat Homer protein are exemplary of the types of experiments which candidate synaptic activation protein family members may be subjected, in order to verify inclusion in the family. Upon identification of the particular binding partner protein to which the synaptic activation protein binds, appropriate functional assays are set up to determine whether such binding interferes with or enhances the biological function of the binding partner protein. For example, in the case of rat Homer protein, mGluR1 and mGluR5 are known to couple to phospholipase C and regulate phosphoinositide hydrolysis via phosphoinositidase C (PI-PLC), while mGluR2 and 4 negatively regulate adenylate cyclase (Nakanishi, 1994; Pin and Duvoisin, 1995). Therefore, in order to further determine whether rat Homer protein interferes with or enhances this functional activity, an assay is set up to monitor mGluR-dependent PI-PLC activity in the absence or presence of added rat Homer protein.

3. Peptide Sequence Specificity of Binding Interaction

According to a further feature of the present invention, it has been found that synaptic activation protein family members, exemplified by rat Homer protein, bind to specific peptide sequences. Such sequence specificity may be dictated by the PDZ domain, or by other domains present in the synaptic activation protein.

In studies carried out in support of the present invention, specificity of the interaction between the rat Homer protein and the metabotropic glutamate receptors mGluR5 and mGluR1 α was examined using *in vitro* binding assays.

Metabotropic glutamate receptors uniquely possess long cytoplasmic C-terminal tails that are 67% identical over the last 55 amino acids and terminate in similar sequences; -RDYTGSSSSL and -RDYKQSSSTL, respectively (FIGS. 9A-9E). To measure the binding interaction, mGluR5 and mGluR1 α were expressed in HEK-293 cells. Cell extracts were mixed with bead-linked GST-Homer and were then eluted with SDS loading buffer. Both transiently expressed full length mGluR1 α and

mGluR5 bind the rat Homer fusion protein, as shown in FIGS. 10A and 10D. When the C-terminal 4 amino acids of mGluR5 were deleted, binding of the mGluR5 to Homer was reduced by greater than 70% (FIG. 10D, lanes 3 and 4). Comparison of the C-terminal sequences of other metabotropic glutamate receptors indicates that mGluR2 and mGluR3 receptors share a similar C-terminal -TSSL (FIG. 8), although they diverge from mGluR1 α and mGluR5 outside this region. Neither mGluR2 nor mGluR4 bind Homer protein (FIGS. 10B, 10C). An unrelated protein known to possess the C-terminal TSSL (RSK1) was also tested for binding, but this protein did not bind Homer. Based on these data, it is believed that the final 4 amino acids are important, but not sufficient for binding.

The foregoing data indicate that the Homer protein specifically interacts with PI-PLC linked metabotropic glutamate receptors, and that the binding specificity is determined, at least in part, by the C terminal 4 amino acids of these receptors. Specific binding sites for additional synaptic activation proteins may have similar or divergent amino acid sequences that can be empirically determined, using methods similar to those discussed above.

The effect of deletion mutations of the Homer protein on its binding to mGluR5 was examined by measuring binding of the full length Homer-GST fusion protein to myc-tagged mGluR5 C-terminal 195 aa fragment expressed from HEK-293 cells. Similarly, deletion constructs lacking the C-terminal 55 amino acids also bound mGluR5. By contrast, deletion of the N-terminal 108 amino acids of the Homer protein, which includes the GLGF sequence, abolished binding to mGluR5. These observations indicate a role for the GLGF region in binding to the C-terminal sequence of mGluR5.

IV. In vivo Regulation of Expression

It is a discovery of the present invention that synaptic activation proteins belonging to the family exemplified by the rat Homer protein may be dynamically regulated by neuronal activity, including seizure activity and acute cocaine administration, as discussed above. In addition, experiments carried out in support of the present invention show that the rat Homer protein is developmentally regulated with peak expression in the rat forebrain from the third to fifth postnatal weeks (FIG. 11). During this period of peak developmental expression, Homer protein mRNA is markedly induced in cerebral cortex of dark-reared rats within 30 min. of the first visual experience (FIGS. 12A-12F). Moreover, monocular deprivation, by blockade of retinal activity with tetrodotoxin, causes a rapid reduction of Homer mRNA in the contralateral visual cortex (FIG. 13). These observations indicate that developmental expression of the synaptic activation protein Homer is regulated in the cortex by natural synaptic activity. It is anticipated that additional members of the synaptic activation protein family may

NMDA-dependent synaptic stimuli that induce long-term potentiation (FIG. 14). The most prominent induction occurs in hippocampal granule cell neurons and is similar in magnitude to induction by

seizure. The Homer protein is also rapidly induced in the striatum by cocaine (FIG. 15) suggesting regulation by dopamine receptor mechanisms. These studies indicate that, unlike other known PDZ proteins, the Homer protein is rapidly regulated by multiple forms of physiological neuronal activity.

The many novel features of the rat Homer protein suggest an important role in glutamatergic synaptic plasticity for Homer and its human analog.

V. Utility

The polynucleotide and polypeptide compositions that form a part of the present invention have utility as major components of diagnostic assays and screening assays for identifying drugs capable of enhancing or inhibiting the interaction between synaptic activation proteins and their cellular binding sites. Specific examples of such assays and how they can be used are provided in the sections that follow.

1. Screening Assays

The synaptic activation proteins described herein may be used in screening assays to identify compounds that interfere with or modulate binding of the protein Homer to mGluR5 or mGluR1 α , and hence with PI-linked mGluR activity. In accordance with the present invention, compounds identified by this screening assay may be used as drugs for treating epilepsy, abnormal brain development, neural injury, trauma and certain chemical addictions.

Assay formats for measuring the protein-protein interaction are known in the art. For example, purified synaptic activation protein can be coated onto a solid phase, such as a microtiter plate, followed by blocking of open plate binding sites, according to standard methods. mGluR is then added to the plate in the absence or presence of a test compound. Detection of mGluR bound to synaptic activation protein is accomplished by direct labeling of the mGluR or by subsequent addition of a labeled, mGluR-specific binding reagent, such as an antibody. The binding reagent may be radiolabeled, *e.g.*, with ¹²⁵I, or may be labeled with a fluorescent dye, an enzyme capable of generating a signal (*e.g.*, horseradish peroxidase), gold or biotin according to methods well known in the art (Howard, 1993). Detection of binding is then carried out using methods appropriate to the signal generated. A test compound is selected for drug development if it significantly alters binding between the proteins.

Accordingly, polynucleotides forming part of the present invention can be used in the large-scale production of synaptic activation proteins for the above-described screening assays.

2. Diagnostic Assays

Using the interaction between the rat or human form of the synaptic activation Homer protein with mGluR5 as an example, a diagnostic assay test kit can be made for measuring induction of the synaptic activation protein. It is appreciated that induction of synaptic activation protein may serve as

a measure of brain activation, such as seizure activity in central nervous tissue. Here, measurement of synaptic activation protein levels may serve as an indicator of the level of seizure activity and/or neuronal damage consequent to such activity. Such measurement may also serve as an indicator of the level of acute cocaine intoxication (*c.f.*, Section IV, above).

5 Diagnostic kits for measuring levels of synaptic activation protein can take the form of a radioimmunoassay, where sample protein levels are measured by displacement of labeled control protein from a specific antibody. Alternatively, protein levels can be measured in an ELISA sandwich style assay, where a monoclonal antibody directed to a specific epitope of the synaptic activation protein is attached to the solid phase. Test sample is then added, followed by detectable monoclonal antibody,
10 directed to a different epitope of the synaptic activation protein. Detectable signal is proportional to amount of synaptic activation protein present in the sample.

The following examples illustrate, but in no way are intended to limit the present invention.

15

Example 1

CLONING OF SYNAPTIC ACTIVATION PROTEIN HOMER BY DIFFERENTIAL SCREENING

Superinduction of IEBs in the hippocampus was achieved by pretreating rats with cycloheximide
20 and 15 minutes later repeatedly administer maximal electroconvulsive seizures (MECS), for a total of 12 MECS over a time period of 3 hours.

Total RNA was isolated from hippocampus of rats treated with MECS and cycloheximide. Poly(A)⁺ RNA was selected by oligo dT column chromatography. The RNA was then converted to cDNA using an oligo dT/*Xho*I primer and directionally cloned into λ Zap II (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA)
25 according to manufacturer's protocol. The complexity of this library was $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ independent clones. This stimulated parent library was then used to prepare a subtracted library enriched for genes induced in hippocampus following seizure. The stimulated library was plated at a density of 50000 pfu/dish (40 dishes total) and phage DNA was prepared. This DNA was linearized at the 3' end of the cDNA insert using *Xho*I and then used as template in the presence of T3 RNA Polymerase to synthesize large
30 amounts of "*in vitro*" cRNA. In order to remove incomplete transcripts and vector sequences, Poly(A)⁺ cRNA was isolated from the cRNA by oligo dT column chromatography. The cRNA was converted to cDNA using an oligo dT/*Xho*I primer and superscript reverse transcriptase (Gibco BRL, Ground

Example 1 (continued)
against Poly(A)⁺ RNA isolated from normal adult rat brain. cDNA subtraction library was prepared. Poly(A)⁺ RNA was biotinylated using "PHOTOPROBE" (long arm) biotin (Vector Laboratories, Inc.,

Burlingame, CA). For the first round of subtraction a 20-fold excess of biotinylated driver brain RNA (200 ug) was hybridized with the stimulated cDNA (10 ug) for 48 hours at 68°C. Non-differential cDNA/bioRNA hybrids were removed by the addition of streptavidin (Vector Laboratories, Inc., Burlingame, CA) followed by phenol extraction and single stranded cDNA was recovered in the aqueous phase. The first round of subtraction removed 80% of the starting cDNA and the remaining single stranded cDNA was hybridized for an additional 48 hours at 68°C with a 100-fold excess of biotinylated driver liver RNA (200 ug). This second round of subtraction removed an additional 16% of the starting stimulated cDNA. The remaining material was size fractionated by column chromatography on "SEPHADEX G-50" (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) to remove degraded and small cDNAs. The "stimulated" subtracted single stranded cDNA was converted to double stranded using "SEQUENASE" DNA Polymerase (USB) and the SK primer (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). Following digestion with *EcoRI* and *XhoI*, and size fractionation by column chromatography, the subtracted cDNA was directionally cloned into λ ZAPII (subtracted/MECS and cycloheximide/hippocampus). The complexity of this subtracted cDNA library was $\sim 5 \times 10^6$ independent clones. This phage library was then plated at a density of ~ 1000 phage/15 cm dish and replicate lifts were obtained. Lifts were then hybridized with ^{32}P -dCTP radiolabelled cDNA prepared from poly A⁺ RNA of hippocampus from either naive control rats or rats that received MECS/cycloheximide stimulation. Single stranded cDNA was prepared using "SUPERScript" according to manufacturer's instructions. Following base denaturation of the RNA template the cDNA was radiolabelled to a specific activity of 4×10^9 cpm/ug by the random priming method. Filters were hybridized for 2 days at 65°C with the subtracted cDNA probe and then washed with 0.5X SSC/0.2%SDS at 65°C and exposed to X-ray film at -80°C with intensifying screens.

Example 2

PREPARATION OF HOMER PROTEIN OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND VECTORS

A mammalian expression construct of full length Homer was prepared by cloning the 5' *EcoRI* fragment (1.6 kb) into pRK5 (Genentech, South San Francisco, CA), according to methods known in the art (Ausubel).

Example 3

SYNTHESIS OF HOMER PROTEIN

Homer protein was expressed in human embryonic kidney cells (IDEK293). The Homer eukaryotic expression vector (sRK5 Homer) was transfected into HEK-293 cells by standard calcium phosphate precipitate method. Cells were harvested 24-48 hours after transfection.

1. Cell-free Translation

Homer protein has been expressed using several strategies. Homer was first expressed from the cDNA cloned in pBSKS- (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) using T3 polymerase and the *in vitro* transcription and translation method according to manufacturer's instructions (Promega Biotech, Madison, WI). This technique was used to assess the size of Homer (Homer migrates on SDS-PAGE with an apparent molecular mass of 28 kDa), confirming the size predicted by the ORF. This method can also be used to prepare Homer protein for other uses described herein.

2. Cellular Expression

Bacterial fusion proteins of Homer were prepared by cloning the ORF into pTrkHis (InVitrogen, San Diego, CA) and pGEX (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). Fusion proteins were expressed in bacteria and purified over the appropriate affinity column according to manufacturers' instructions.

Homer was expressed in eukaryotic cells (human embryonic kidney cells, American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD) by cloning a 2 kB *EcoRI* restriction fragment that included the ORF into the vector pRK5 (Genentech, South San Francisco, CA), according to standard procedures known in the art. The eukaryotic expression vector (pRK4 Homer) was transfected into HEK-293 cells by standard calcium phosphate precipitate methods. Cells were harvested 24-48 hours after transfection. The proteins isolated from these cells were used in binding assays and to confirm the size of the native protein.

Homer was also expressed yeast. The ORF was cloned into pPC86 (Chevray and Nathans, 1992) and used to screen for proteins that interact with Homer. This screen first determined that Homer interacts with the type 5 metabotropic glutamate receptor.

Example 4

IMMUNOAFFINITY PURIFICATION OF HOMER PROTEIN

Monoclonal antibodies are coupled to protein A or G (depending upon Ig isotype) beads (commercially available from Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) according to manufacturer's instructions and the bead complexes are collected in an immunoaffinity column. Cleared whole cell lysates are preabsorbed to agarose beads, passed through the immunoaffinity column, washed with several volumes of wash buffer, then the protein of interest is eluted from the column using a predetermined buffer condition. Commonly, high salt conditions are used for such elution.

Alternatively, antibodies may be directly attached to a chromatography solid phase reagent, such

Example 5

TWO-HYBRID PROTEIN BINDING ASSAY

The full-length Homer ORF with flanking *Sma*I sites was subcloned into the yeast expression vector pPC97. A random primed cDNA library was prepared from seizure stimulated adult rat hippocampus and cloned into the yeast expression vector pPC86. The library contains 6×10^6 independent cDNAs and a total of 1.5×10^6 were screened. Interacting proteins were identified by colony selection on plates lacking leucine, tryptophan, and histidine and confirmed using a β -galactosidase assay (Ausubel, *et al.*, 1992). Alternatively, a commercially available 2-hybrid detection system can be used to detect protein-protein interactions, *e.g.*, "HYBRID HUNTER" (InVitrogen, San Diego, CA).

Example 6

MEASUREMENT OF EXPRESSION LEVELS

1. Antisera Preparation

Rabbit polyclonal antiserum for the mGluR receptors were generated against C-terminal peptides: mGluR1 as reported previously, mGluR2/3 (Chemicon International Inc.), mGluR4 (Wyeth-Ayerst Research, Princeton, NJ), and mGluR5 against a C-terminal 21 aa peptide. Anti-Homer rabbit polyclonal antisera were generated using either the full length Homer ORF as a GST fusion or a C-terminal 18 aa peptide. Both antisera detected a 28 kDa protein when Homer was expressed in HEK-293 cells and a seizure-inducible 28/29 kDa doublet protein in hippocampus.

2. Immunoblot Analysis

Protein mixtures were separated by SDS-PAGE according to standard methods. After electrophoresis the gel was washed extensively, and the proteins were then transferred to nitrocellulose according to methods known in the art (Ausubel, *et al.*, 1992). The nitrocellulose was then incubated with polyclonal anti-mGluR5 rabbit polyclonal antiserum diluted according to pre-determined detection criteria. The blot was washed, then incubated with radiolabeled or enzyme-linked anti-rabbit antiserum. Dried gels were subjected to autoradiography.

Example 7

BINDING OF SYNAPTIC ACTIVATION PROTEIN HOMER PROTEIN TO MGLUR5

1. Binding of Bacterially-Expressed GST-Homer Fusion Protein in Bacterial Extracts

Hippocampal lysate was prepared by sonicating hippocampi of 21 day old rats (3×10 seconds) in PBS and 1% Triton with protease inhibitors, centrifuging for 10 minutes at 15,000 g, and preclearing

with CL-4B sepharose beads (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). Homer affinity columns were prepared by irreversibly crosslinking Homer GST fusion protein to Affigel agarose beads (1 mg Homer protein per 1 ml bed volume; Bio-Rad Laboratories, Richmond, CA). 40 ml of beads were then incubated with lysate from one hippocampus for one hour at 4°C, washed three times with PBS, and bound mGluR5 was eluted by boiling in 3x loading buffer.

2. Binding of Rat Homer Protein to Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors

For experiments examining specificity of Homer binding to metabotropic glutamate receptors, HEK-293 cells were transiently transfected with mGluR1 α , mGluR2, mGluR4 or mGluR5 expression constructs, scraped into PBS + 1% Triton X100, sonicated 2 \times 10 seconds, centrifuged at 15,000 g for 10 minutes at 4°C, and pre-cleared. Lysate from half of a 10 cm plate was incubated with 50 μ l of beads linked to 250 ng of protein and washed as above. Samples were analyzed by western blot analysis using the appropriate polyclonal mGluR antibody. Deletion constructs of Homer were prepared by PCR and cloned as fusion constructs with GST in pGEX (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ).

C. Co-Immunoprecipitation of Homer Protein and mGluR5

Hippocampal lysate was prepared as above. Rabbit anti-Homer serum or pre-immune serum were irreversibly linked to "AFFIGEL" agarose beads (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Richmond, CA) and washed extensively with PBS. 50 μ l beads were incubated with lysate from one hippocampus overnight at 4°C, washed 2x with PBS with 1% Triton and 2x with PBS, resuspended in 3x SDS loading buffer and analyzed by gel electrophoresis and western blot analysis. In control experiments, coimmunoprecipitation of mGluR5 was blocked by pre-incubating anti-Homer linked beads with 50 μ g of Homer GST-fusion protein for 1 hour at 4°C.

Example 8

IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY

Six week old rats were anesthetized and perfused with 4% paraformaldehyde. Whole brains were removed and placed in the fixative for one hour and then into 30% Sucrose for 72 hours. sections were cut using a sliding microtome, blocked and permeabilized for one hour in 1% dry milk and 5% normal goat serum in PBS with 0.1% Triton. Sections were incubated in primary antibody for 24 hours, washed and immunoperoxidase staining was performed with a Vectastain Elite ABC Kit (Vector Laboratories, Inc., Burlingame, CA). Elimination of the primary or preadsorption of Homer

Cy3 labeled FAB fragment of an antibody raised against synthetic peptide corresponding to amino acids 251-269. Cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 1 hr, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton and

incubated with affinity purified anti-Homer antiserum for overnight at 4°C. Homer was detected by FITC coupled goat anti-rabbit antibody (Vector Laboratories, Inc., Burlingame, CA).

Example 9

ASSAY KITS

A. Preparation of Monoclonal Antibodies

Balb/c mice are anesthetized by pentobarbital injection. After shaving the fur from the splenic area, the area is swabbed with 70% ethanol and draped with sterile gauze soaked in sterile isotonic saline. A cutaneous incision about 1 cm in length is made in the left midcapsular line, followed by
10 incision of the abdominal wall and peritoneum. Using forceps, a nitrocellulose disc, excised from a nitrocellulose blot of a gel containing separated Homer protein, is inserted into the spleen through the slit and carefully moved distally toward the caudal end until the disc is completely embedded in the splenic tissue. Alternatively, extracted protein is injected intrasplenically in a volume of less than 5 microliters, or intraperitoneally, according to standard methods. The spleen is observed to ensure that
15 bleeding is not excessive, and returned to the peritoneal cavity. The abdominal wall and the skin are sutured separately with interrupted 4-0 silk sutures. Eight to ten days later the mice are bled and the serum tested for antibody titer against molecular weight matched proteins fractionated by preparative SDS electrophoresis (western blot). If the antibody titer is low, the procedure is repeated.

Then, an antibody producing hybridoma is produced using standard protocols. For example,
20 p3x63-Ag8.653 myeloma cells originating from Balb/c mice (nonsecreting myeloma, 8-azaguanine-resistant, HPRT) are fused according to standard PEG4000 (Merck, Philadelphia, PA) fusion protocol with immunized splenocytes at a myeloma:lymphocyte ratio of 10:1 and the cells are plated in microplates in medium containing HAT, and 10% conditioned medium from J774.1 murine macrophage line pulsed with LPS.

Relevant polypeptides separated by preparative SDS-PAGE and eluted therefrom are used to
25 check the specificity of the generated monoclonal antibodies. Usually, eluate containing 30 to 80 µg/ml of partially purified protein are applied to microtiter wells and incubated, for example, for 2 hours at 37°C followed by 2 hours at 4°C. After washing, supernatant from each hybridoma well is added and incubated for 1 hour at 4°C, then washed several times with PBS. Fluoresceinated goat-anti-mouse
30 immunoglobulin "second" antibody is added, then washed, and binding is monitored by fluorometry.

Positive hybridoma clones are expanded, re-cloned, and injected into Pristane-treated Balb/c mice for large-scale production of antibody (ascites). Antibody from the ascites fluid are purified on Protein A or G (according to the Ig isotype) columns.

B. Solid Phase Immunoassay

Purified rat Homer is diluted in a standard coating dilution buffer, such as phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and coated onto a solid phase, such as a microtiter plate, followed by blocking of open plate binding sites with an unrelated protein such as bovine serum albumin or casein, according to standard methods. mGluR is then added to the plate in the absence or presence of a test compound. Detection of mGluR bound to synaptic activation protein is accomplished by direct labeling of the mGluR or by subsequent addition of a labeled, mGluR-specific binding reagent, such as a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody specific for mGluR. A test compound is selected for drug development if it significantly alters binding between the proteins.

10

While the invention has been described with reference to specific methods and embodiments, it will be appreciated that various modifications and changes may be made without departing from the invention.

IT IS CLAIMED:

1. An isolated polypeptide, characterized by (i) enriched expression during synaptic activity in mammalian brain, (ii) presence of a PDZ-like binding domain, and (iii) a sequence that is at least
5 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, which further exhibits an ability to selectively bind to a synaptic membrane protein having a C-terminal peptide region selected from the group consisting of SSSL and SSTL.
10

3. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said sequence identity is at least about 90%.

4. The isolated polypeptide of any of claims 1-3, wherein said polypeptide has the sequence
15 SEQ ID NO: 2.

5. An isolated polynucleotide capable of encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of claims 1-4.

20 6. A vector which contains a polynucleotide as defined by claim 5.

7. The vector of claim 6, wherein said polynucleotide has the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1.

8. A method of selecting a compound that interferes with binding of a synaptic activation
25 protein to a cellular binding protein in the mammalian central nervous system, comprising
adding a test compound to a reaction mixture containing (i) an isolated synaptic activation protein defined by any of claims 1-4, (ii) an isolated binding protein to which said synaptic activation protein binds, and (iii) means for detecting binding between said synaptic activation protein and said binding protein;
30 measuring binding between said synaptic activation protein and said binding protein, and
selecting said compound if the measured binding is greater than or less than binding measured in the absence of said test compound.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said binding protein is a metabotropic glutamate
35 receptor which includes a sequence selected from the group consisting of SSSL and SSTL.

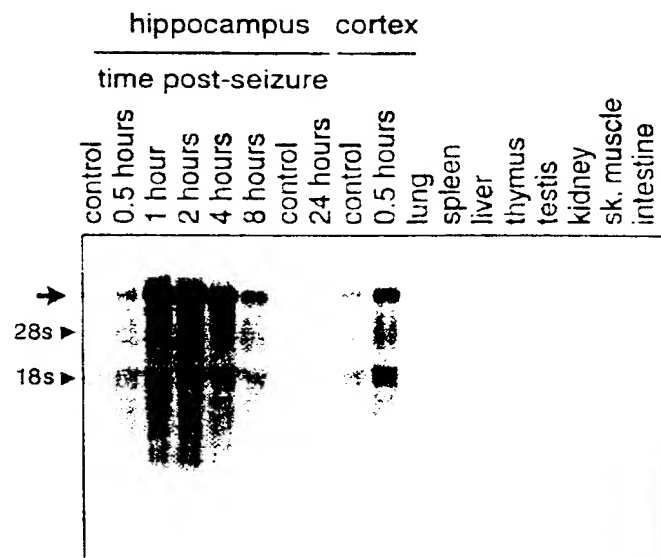
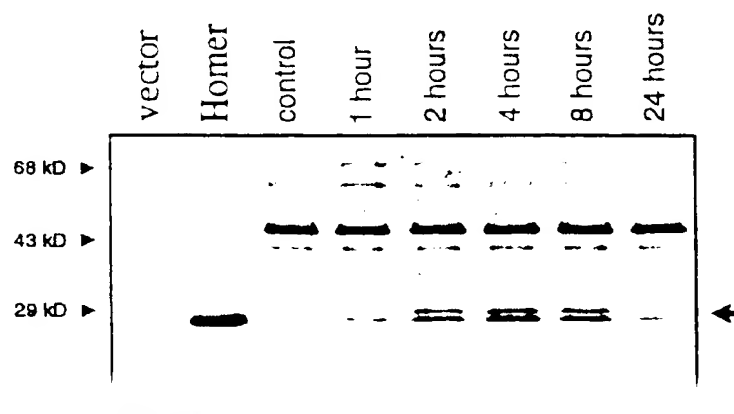
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said mGluR binding protein is expressed in cells, and said binding between said receptor and said binding protein is measured by measuring phosphoinositidase C (PI-PLC) activity in said cells.

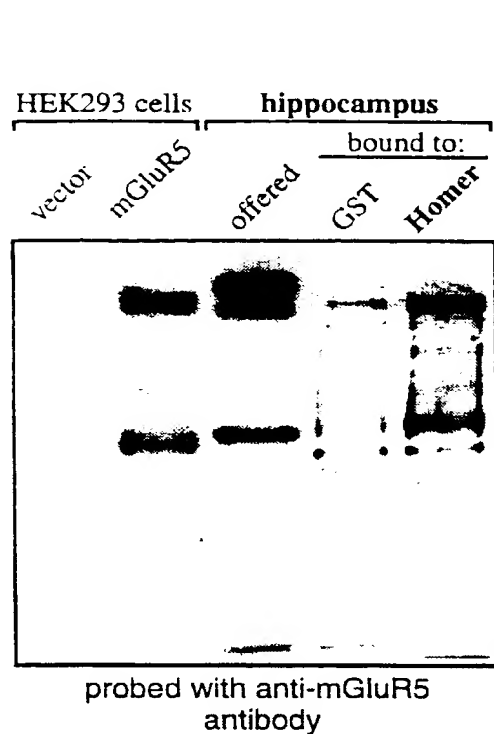
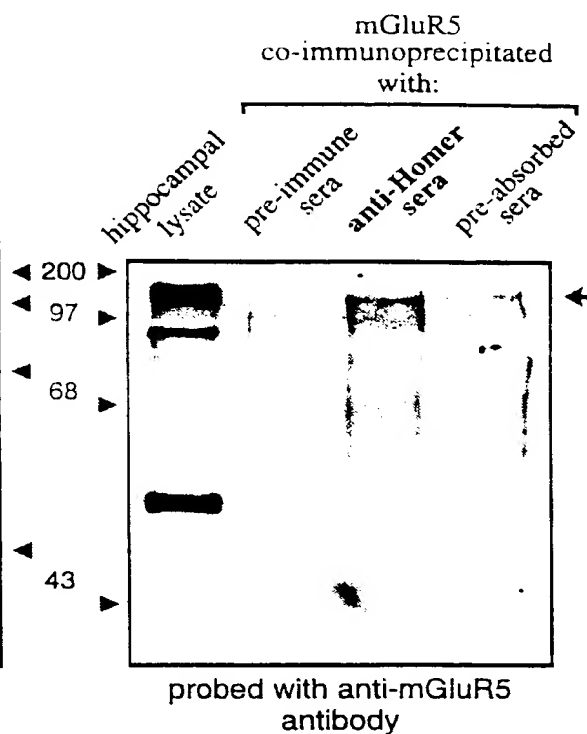
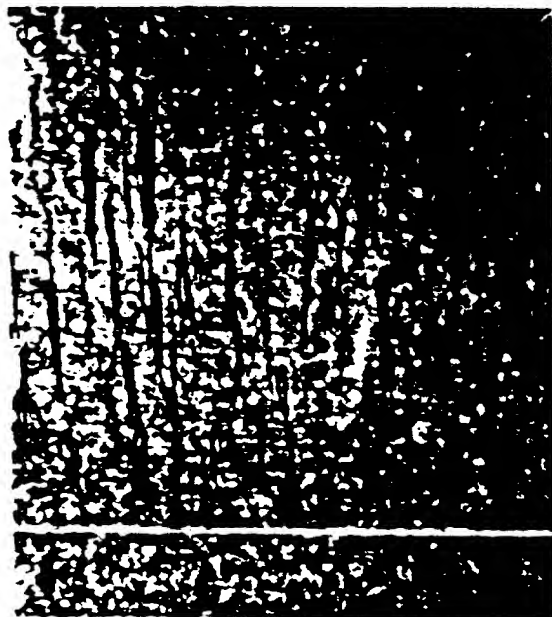
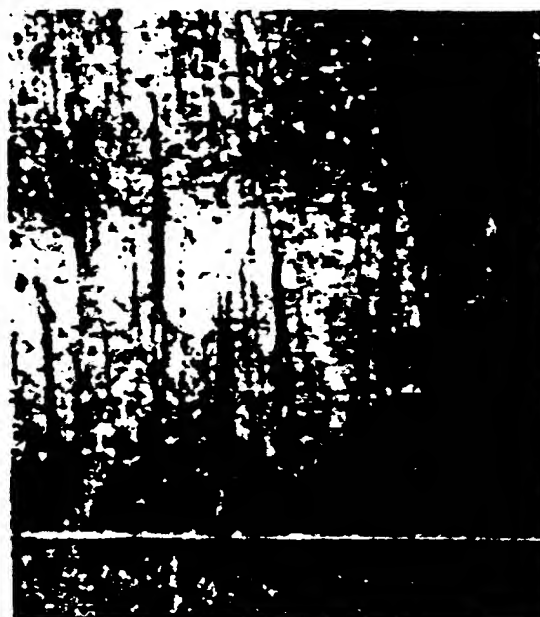
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GCAATAATAAATAGCACCATCACTCCAAACATGACATTTACTAAAACATCTCAA
AAGTTTGGCCAATGGGCTGATAGCCGGGCAAACACTGTTTATGGACTGGGATTCT
CCTCTGAGCATCATCTCTCAAAATTTGCAGAAAAGTTTCAGGAATTTAAAGAAGC
TGCTCGGCTGGCAAAGGAGAAGTCGCAGGAGAAGATGGAAC TGACCAGTACCC
CTTCACAGGAATCAGCAGGAGGAGATCTTCAGTCTCCTTTAACACCAGAAAGTA
TCAATGGGACAGATGATGAGAGAACACCCGATGTGACACAGAACTCAGAGCCA
AGGGCTGAGCCAGCTCAGAATGCATTGCCATTTTCACATAGGTACACATTCAATT
CAGCAATCATGATTAAA

Fig. 1

Homer (rat)	MGEQPIFTR AHVFQIDPNT KKNWMPASKH	30
Human EST	MGEQPIFTR AHVFQIDPNT KKNWMPASKH	30
Mouse EST	-----	
Homer (rat)	RTUSYFYDS TRNUYRIISL DGSKAIINST	60
Human EST	GHRF-YFYDU TRNSYRIISU D-----	50
Mouse EST	-----YFYDU TRNSYRIISU DGAKUIINST	25
Homer (rat)	ITPNMTFTKT SQKFGQWADS RANTUYGLGF	90
Human EST	-----	
Mouse EST	ITPNMTFTKT SQKEGQWADS RANTUFGLGF	55
Homer (rat)	SSEHLSKFA EKQEFKEAA RLAKESQEK	120
Human EST	-----	
Mouse EST	SSELQLTKFA EKQEURERA RLAROKSQEK	85
Homer (rat)	MELTSTPSQE SAGGDLQSPL TPESINGTDD	150
Human EST	-----	
Mouse EST	TETSSNHSQE S-GCETPSST QASSUNGDD	114
Homer (rat)	ERTPOUTQNS EPRAEPAQNA LPFSHRYTFH	150
Human EST	-----	
Mouse EST	EKASHASPAD THLKSENDKL KIALTQSAH	144
Homer (rat)	SAIMIK---	186
Human EST	-----	
Mouse EST	UKKWEMELQ	153

Fig. 2

**Fig. 3****Fig. 4**

**Fig. 5****Fig. 6****Fig. 7A****Fig. 7B**

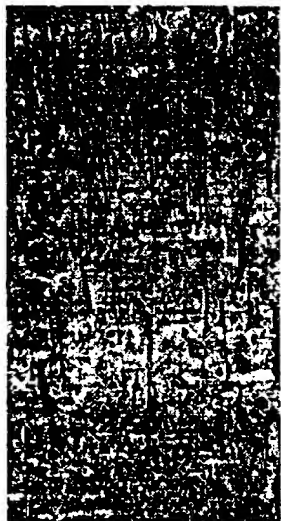


Fig. 7C



Fig. 7D



Fig. 7E



Fig. 7F

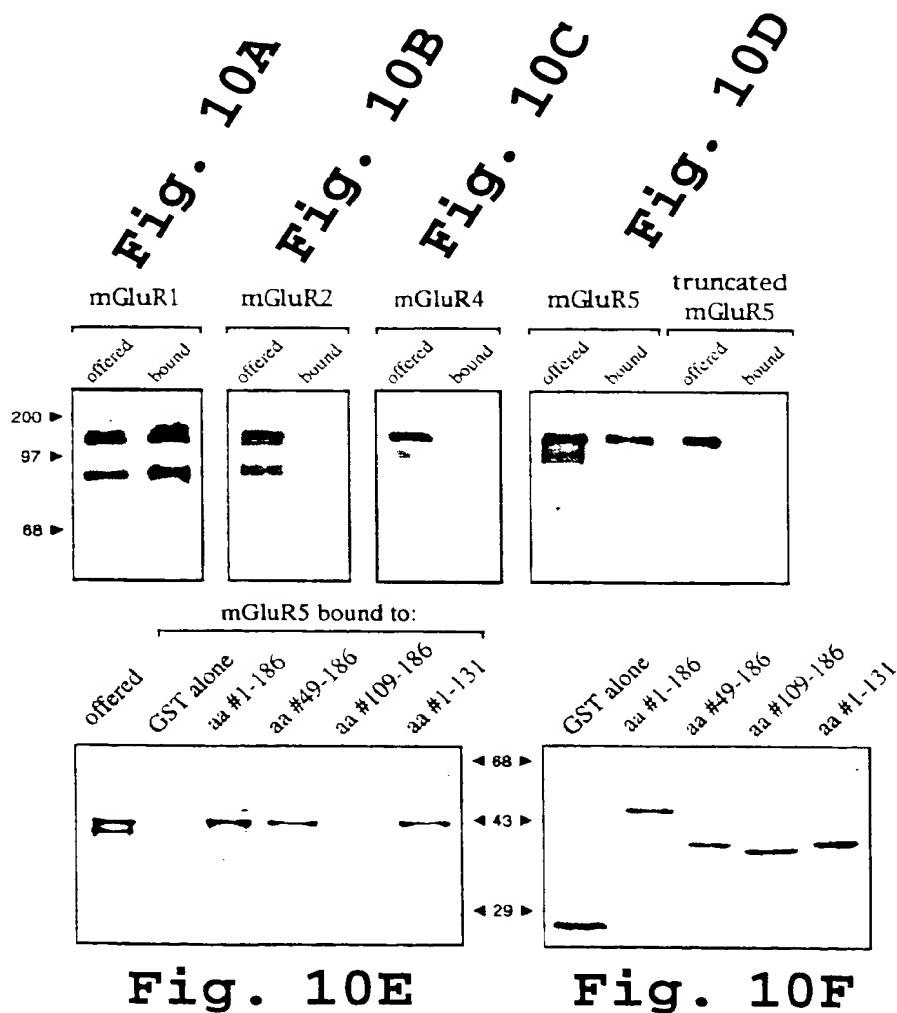


Fig. 8A



Fig. 8B

Fig. 9A mGluR1 α - RDYKQSSSTL
Fig. 9B mGluR2 - EVVDSTTSSL
Fig. 9C mGluR3 - EVLDSTTSSL
Fig. 9D mGluR4 - TYVTYTNHAI
Fig. 9E mGluR5 - RDYTQSSSSL



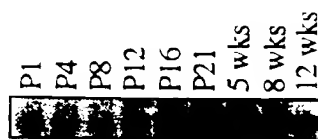


Fig. 11

Fig. 12A

Fig. 12C

Fig. 12E



Fig. 12B

Fig. 12D

Fig. 12F

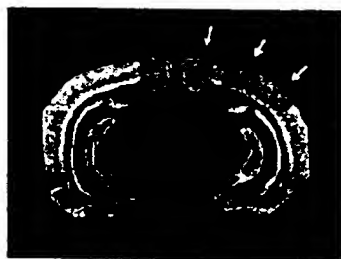


Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT US98/04983

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) C07K 14/47; C12N 15/63; G01N 33/53

US CL 435/7.8, 320.1; 530/350

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. 435/7.8, 320.1; 530/350

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	BRAKEMAN et al. Homer: a protein that selectively binds metabotropic glutamate receptors. Nature. 20 March 1997. Vol. 386. pages 284-288, see entire document.	1-3
A	KORNAU et al. Domain Interaction Between NMDA Receptor Subunits and the Postsynaptic Density Protein PSD-95. Science. 22 September 1995. Vol. 269. pages 1737-1740, see entire document.	1-3



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

A	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T*	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
E	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*X*	document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y*	document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
O	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*Z*	document member of the same patent family
P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

06 MAY 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 JUL 1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US98 04983

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-10
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/04983

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

APS, DIALOG

search terms: synaptic, synapse, homer, PDZ, binding domain, SSSL, SSTL, metabotropic glutamate receptor, mGluR
binding protein, phosphoinositidase C

duced haloperidol. Haloperidol has been reported to have a plasma half-life ranging from about 13 to nearly 40 hours. Haloperidol is about 92% bound to plasma proteins. It is widely distributed in the body and crosses the blood-brain barrier. Haloperidol is excreted in breast milk.

The decanoate ester of haloperidol is very slowly absorbed from the site of injection and is therefore suitable for depot injection. It is gradually released into the bloodstream where it is rapidly hydrolysed to haloperidol.

The clinical significance of the reduced metabolite of haloperidol has been much debated.^{1,2} Its activity appears to be substantially less than that of the parent drug. However, there is some evidence for re-oxidation of reduced haloperidol to haloperidol in man.^{3,4} Moreover, some studies suggest that non-responders to haloperidol have elevated ratios of reduced haloperidol to haloperidol in the plasma, although other workers have reported contrary findings.⁵ Pyridinium metabolites resulting from oxidation of haloperidol have been detected in the urine of patients given haloperidol and there is concern that these metabolites may be neurotoxic in a manner similar to MPTP (1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine), a compound which can induce irreversible parkinsonism.⁶

Measurement of concentrations of haloperidol or reduced haloperidol in scalp hair has been suggested as a useful means of monitoring the dosage history of a patient.^{7,8} Consistent correlations between the concentration of haloperidol in red blood cells and clinical response have not been obtained.⁹

1. Sramek JJ, et al. Neuroleptic plasma concentrations and clinical response in search of a therapeutic window. *Drug Intell Clin Pharm* 1988; 22: 373-80.

2. Froemming JS, et al. Pharmacokinetics of haloperidol. *Clin Pharmacokinet* 1989; 17: 396-423.

3. Chakrabarti BS, et al. Interconversion between haloperidol and reduced haloperidol in healthy volunteers. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol* 1989; 37: 45-8.

4. Eples DW, et al. Quantitative analysis of two pyridinium metabolites of haloperidol in patients with schizophrenia. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 1994; 56: 512-20.

5. Uematsu T, et al. Human scalp hair as evidence of individual dosage history of haloperidol: method and retrospective study. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol* 1989; 37: 239-44.

6. Matsuno H, et al. The measurement of haloperidol and reduced haloperidol in hair as an index of dosage history. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 1990; 29: 187-94.

Administration in ethnic groups. For reference to ethnic differences in the disposition of haloperidol, see Chlorpromazine, p.693.

Uses and Administration

Haloperidol is a butyrophenone with general properties similar to those of the phenothiazines, chlorpromazine (see p.693). Haloperidol is an antipsychotic with actions most closely resembling those of phenothiazines with a piperazine side chain. Some haloperidol preparations are prepared with the aid of lactic acid and may be stated to contain haloperidol lactate. However, doses are expressed in terms of the equivalent amount of haloperidol.

Haloperidol is used in the treatment of various psychoses including schizophrenia and mania, and in behaviour disturbances, in Tourette's syndrome and severe tics, in intractable hiccups, and in severe anxiety. The overall treatment of these conditions is described on p.672 (schizophrenia), p.300 (mania), p.672 (disturbed behaviour), p.671 (tics), p.694 (hiccups), and p.670 (anxiety disorders).

The usual initial dose by mouth for the treatment of psychoses and associated behaviour disorders is 0.5 to 5 mg twice or three times daily. In severe psychoses or resistant patients doses of up to 100 mg daily may be required; in very high-dose therapy doses of 200 mg daily have been used. The dose should be reduced gradually according to response; maintenance doses as low as 3 to 10 mg daily may be sufficient. A suggested initial dose for children by mouth is 25 to 50 µg per kg body-weight daily in two divided doses, increased cautiously, if necessary, a maximum daily dose of 10 mg has been suggested in the UK but in the USA the suggested maximum daily dose is 150 µg per kg as it is considered that there is little evidence of behaviour improvement with daily doses of more than 6 mg.

For the control of acute psychotic conditions haloperidol may be given intramuscularly in doses of 2 to 10 mg; subsequent doses may be given hourly until symptoms are controlled although dosage intervals of 4 to 8 hours may be adequate. Up to 30 mg intramuscularly may be required for the emergency control of very severely disturbed patients. The intravenous route may be used.

In patients already stabilised on an oral dose of haloperidol and requiring long-term therapy the long-acting decanoate ester may be given by deep intramuscular injection. The usual initial dose is the equivalent of 10 to 15 times the total daily dose of haloperidol by mouth, up to a maximum of 100 mg. Subsequent doses, usually given every 4 weeks, may be increased to up to 300 mg or more, according to the patient's requirements, both dose and dose interval being adjusted as required.

Haloperidol may be used for its antiemetic effect in the management of nausea and vomiting of various causes, in usual doses of 0.5 to 2 mg daily by intramuscular injection, although higher doses are sometimes employed. Other treatments for nausea and vomiting are discussed on p.1198.

A starting dose of 0.5 to 1.5 mg three times daily by mouth has been suggested for the management of Tourette's syndrome and severe tics. Up to about 10 mg daily may be needed in Tourette's syndrome, although requirements vary considerably and the dose must be very carefully adjusted to obtain the optimum response.

For intractable hiccups a suggested oral dose is 1.5 mg given three times daily by mouth adjusted according to response; alternatively 3 to 15 mg may be given daily by intramuscular or intravenous injection in divided doses.

A dose of 500 µg twice daily by mouth has been used as adjunctive treatment in the short-term management of non-psychotic anxiety disorders. However, benzodiazepines are usually preferred when pharmacological treatment is considered necessary for such conditions.

Haloperidol should be used in reduced dosage in elderly or debilitated patients; doses at the lower end of the scale are also advised for adolescents.

General references

1. Beresford R, Ward A. Haloperidol decanoate: a preliminary review of its pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic properties and therapeutic use in psychosis. *Drugs* 1987; 33: 31-49.

Anxiety disorders. For a discussion of the management of anxiety disorders including mention of the limitations on the use of antipsychotics, see p.670.

Chorea. Antipsychotics have some action against choreiform movements as well as being of use to control the behavioural disturbances of Huntington's chorea. For a discussion of the management of various choreas, including mention of the use of haloperidol, see p.671.

References to the use of haloperidol in the treatment of chorea are given below.

1. Kukla LA, et al. Systemic lupus erythematosus presenting as chorea. *Arch Dis Child* 1978; 53: 345-7.

2. Donaldson JO. Control of chorea gravidarum with haloperidol. *Obstet Gynecol* 1982; 59: 381-2.

Disturbed behaviour and mania. Patients suffering from acute mania are usually treated with antipsychotic agents as they produce rapid control of symptoms. Typical agents used include chlorpromazine, droperidol, or haloperidol. Lithium is also used to control acute mania but since it may take some time before a response is seen antipsychotic agents can be given to control symptoms during initiation of therapy and gradually withdrawn later. Patients with recurrent bipolar disorder who require prophylactic treatment are usually given lithium but some have also been given antipsychotics.

For a discussion of the treatment of acute mania and bipolar disorder, see p.300. The management of various behaviour disorders, including the use of haloperidol, is discussed on p.672.

Dystonia. Antipsychotics such as phenothiazines, haloperidol, or pimozide are sometimes useful in the treatment of idiopathic dystonia in patients who have failed to respond to treatment with levodopa or antimuscarinic agents.¹ However, they often act non-specifically and there is the risk of adding drug-induced extrapyramidal disorders to the dystonia being

treated (see Extrapyramidal Disorders under Adverse Effects of Chlorpromazine, p.690).

For a discussion of the management of dystonia, see under Levodopa on p.1164.

1. Marsden CD, Quinn NP. The dystonias. *Br Med J* 1980; 80: 139-44.

Hiccups. For a discussion of hiccups and its management including mention of the use of haloperidol, see Chlorpromazine, p.694.

Nausea and vomiting. The management of nausea and vomiting is discussed on p.1198. While haloperidol has sometimes been used it is not considered among the main drugs in that discussion.

Schizophrenia. The use of antipsychotics in the management of schizophrenia is discussed on p.672.

Sneezing. A patient with intractable sneezing that had continued every 4 to 5 seconds for 139 days, except during sleep and while talking, responded to treatment with haloperidol by mouth.¹ With a dose of 1.5 mg twice daily the sneezing rate fell after a week to once every 30 seconds, and subsequent increase to 5 mg twice daily completely abolished symptoms. The patient stopped taking the medicine after 4 weeks at the higher dosage, and symptoms recurred 6 weeks later, but responded to 5 mg three times daily. On gradual reduction of dosage over 6 months the patient experienced no recurrence of the sneezing and had remained symptom-free after 6 months without medication.

1. Davison K. Pharmacological treatment for intractable sneezing. *Br Med J* 1982; 284: 1163-4.

Taste disorders. For reference to the use of haloperidol in the treatment of taste disorders, see Chlorpromazine, p.695.

Tourette's syndrome. Tourette's syndrome is a disorder characterised by motor and vocal tics and behavioural disturbances. Many patients with Tourette's syndrome do not require medication since their symptoms are not impairing.¹ When treatment is needed dopamine antagonists such as the antipsychotics haloperidol^{2,3} or pimozide^{4,5} are most commonly used. They often decrease the frequency and severity of tics and may improve any accompanying behavioural disturbances. However, superiority of either drug has not been established.⁶ Medication can often be discontinued after a few years for a discussion of the management of Tourette's syndrome including mention of the use of antipsychotics, see under Tics, p.671.

1. Cohen DJ, Leckman JF. Tourette's syndrome. *JAMA* 1990; 263: 1235.

2. Freeman RD, et al. Tourette's syndrome: update. *Clin Neurosci* 1994; 130: 1554-7.

3. Coffin CE, Tankanow RM. Pimozide: use in Tourette's syndrome. *Drug Intell Clin Pharm* 1989; 19: 411-4.

4. Anonymous. Pimozide for Tourette's disorder. *Ann Intern Med* 1989; 27: 3-4.

5. Shapiro E, et al. Controlled study of haloperidol, pimozide and placebo for the treatment of Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1989; 46: 722-30.

Preparations

Names of preparations are listed below; details are given on p.693.

Official Preparations

BP 1993. Haloperidol Capsules, Haloperidol Injection, Haloperidol Oral Solution, Haloperidol Tablets, Strong Haloperidol Solution.

USP 23. Haloperidol Injection, Haloperidol Oral Solution, Haloperidol Tablets.

Proprietary Preparations

Azur, Haldol, Vesalium, Aural, Haldol, Serenace, Bile, Haldol, Camal, Haldol, Novo Pindol, Pindol, Ene, Haldol, Serace, Fr, Haldol, Ger, Haldol, Gerapendol, Haldol, Haldol, Sigapendol, Ital, Bropendol, Haldol, Serenace, Novo, Haldol, Novo, Haldol, S.Mr, Ceren, Serenace, Sord, Haldol, Jnc, Haldol, Sigapendol, UK, Doris, Fortiman, Haldol, Serenace, USA, Haldol, Halperon.

Multi-ingredient preparations. Bile, Vesalium, Fr, Vesal, Ital, Vesalium, Sord, Vesalium.

Haloxazolam (J283)

Haloxazolam (INN)

10-Bromo-11β-(2-fluorophenyl)-2,3,7,11-tetrahydrocyclo[3,2-d][1,4]benzodiazepin-6(5H)-one

C₁₇H₁₄BrFN₂O = 327.2

CAS = 59128-97

Pharmacopoeias: in trip.

Haloxazolam is a benzodiazepine with general properties similar to those of diazepam (see p.700). It is used as a hypnotic in the short-term management of insomnia in doses of 5 to 10 mg by mouth at night. For a discussion of the management of insomnia including the limitations on the use of benzodiazepines, see p.674.